



CENTER CITY and our PARKS

Center City Seattle is becoming a place where people choose to live, work and play. Last edition in Neighborhood News we highlighted the Mayor's strategy toward housing, zoning, and business. This month, we showcase the contribution our parks will have in the new Center City.

Parks, community centers, and pedestrian corridors are key elements in creating unique, but connected, neighborhoods. The following are several parks that will have a great impact on livability in the coming years.

Center City continued on page 4.





Seattle Goes Green!



Thanks to hundreds of hardworking volunteers, more than six hundred trees were planted in 30 different neighborhoods throughout Seattle this fall. The tree planting projects are part of the Neighborhood Matching Fund Tree Fund, which provides free trees to neighborhood groups in exchange for volunteer time planting and caring for the trees.

In preparation for planting, Nolan Rundquist, City Arborist at the Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT), recently provided training to a group of 60 enthusiastic tree planters on a Saturday morning at the Central Area Motivation Program. The group of tree planters consisted

GIVE A WARM WELCOME to Our Two Newest DISTRICT COORDINATORS!



Prior to taking over the position as Downtown District Coordinator, Christa Dumpys was working at Seattle Parks for the past four and a half years, first as a Recreation Assistant then on to Recreation Center Coordinator.

She has spent much of her career working with

youth programming, but she has a strong desire to broaden her experience and work with the larger community, and looks forward to working in Downtown Seattle. Christa has been involved with the Green Lake, Montlake, and Queen Anne communities in Seattle, working on educational programs and community building.

She has also spent time overseas working in Malawi for two years, establishing a committee of various Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), Community Based Organizations (CBOs), and religious organizations that guided the development of a youth resource center.

Christa has a Bachelors degree from St. Olaf in Minnesota, and a Masters in social work from the University of Michigan. She has a desire to initiate community involvement and the development of human services. Christa is known for her dedication and her willingness to be a team player.

Her interests include hiking, cross country skiing, and snow shoeing. An accomplished athlete, she has completed three triathlons. Christa loves the outdoors and exploring the wonderful natural parks here in Washington, where she's lived for the past five years.

When you have the opportunity, please join us in welcoming these two wonderful and talented individuals to the Department of Neighborhoods.

Before joining the Department of Neighborhoods as the Lake Union District Coordinator, Yun Pitre was Community Outreach Coordinator for Link Light Rail with Sound Transit.

She has worked with diverse communities organizing meetings, coordinating and pre-



senting information, and working with businesses and contractors to fully communicate and understand the impacts and assistance needed for transportation construction. With her strong background in community relations, Yun understands the level of trust needed to do outreach and community work.

Before her work with Sound Transit she was a Neighborhood Traffic Control Program Coordinator with the City of Kent. She did outreach, presentations, evaluated projects, educated volunteers and coordinated with other City of Kent departments. Yun has a BA degree from the University of Washington.

Yun is highly regarded for her community building experience and being a person who is detail-oriented. Because of her work with Sound Transit, Yun has experience working directly with Mayor Nickels and the Mayor's Office which will serve her well as she helps the Lake Union District.

Yun was born in South Korea. She and her family moved to the U.S. when she was 10 years old. She has three siblings, one brother, and two sisters. She's been married to her husband for 17 years and has two beautiful children, Christopher, who's 14, and Cheyanne, who's 11. She enjoys reading and gardening. Other than that, she likes to go to her son's football games, watch movies, and visit family. Recently, she bought a house on half an acre in Sea-Tac, and is keeping busy remodeling it.

Survey Inventory NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE

In 2000, the City of Seattle began a comprehensive effort to survey and inventory historic resources in the City. So far, surveys and inventories of nine neighborhoods have been completed as well as neighborhood commercial districts and residential properties built prior to 1906 throughout Seattle.

The last citywide survey was completed in 1979. Unlike the current effort, the 1979 survey was a "windshield" survey that identified buildings that appeared to have architectural significance but the surveyors did not have the tools to conduct additional historical research to evaluate the significance of the properties.

Beginning with the survey and inventory of City-owned properties in 2000, professional architectural historians and volunteers have surveyed and inventoried more than 5000 properties. For the first time, they are in one database and now available to the public at this web address:

http://webqa1.seattle.gov/dpd/historicalsite/

On this site you will find:

- The database of historic properties
- A glossary of terms
- The context statements for the neighborhoods for which a survey and inventory has been completed
- Frequently-asked questions about the survey and inventory process

HAPPEN IGS your neighborhood

SQUIRE PARK IS AWARDED \$10,000

The Washington Insurance Council has awarded the Squire Park Community Council Traffic Calming Committee a \$10,000 grant. The Traffic Committee is focusing on developing a strategy to reduce automobile volume and speed on their residential streets, to increase pedestrian safety and to improve the neighborhood's residential character.

The Committee is exploring the notion of applying to the Neighborhood Matching Fund to hire a consultant to advise the Committee on strategies to mitigate the potential negative traffic-related impacts of the planned expansion of the Swedish-Providence Campus.

DELRIDGE

LEVEL OF SERVICES IN NORTH HIGHLINE

The North Highline Unincorporated Area Council held a community meeting at St. Bernadette Catholic Church in the City of Burien to receive public comment regarding what the public wants for level of services. Most of the over 200 people attending the meeting felt the present services provided by the King County Sheriff Department and the North Highline Fire Department were very adequate. The audience was divided on whether the City of Seattle could provide better sewer and water services than is presently provided by the Southwest Sewer District and Val Vue Sewer District. Several residents, primarily people of color, advocated for more human services and educational programs to better serve the growing ethnic and immigrant communities. Nesbitt Planning and Management, consultants hired to study the feasibility of White Center/Boulevard Park becoming incorporated, provided graphic comparisons of the governance options and hope to complete it later this year.

HAPPEN rGS your neighborhood

FOOD BANK BREAKS GROUND

This month the West Seattle community celebrated the ground breaking for the new West Seattle Food Bank and Community Resources Center located on the southeast corner of 35th Ave SW and SW Morgan, just a few blocks from the new High Point Housing Development. In attendance were local residents and human service providers, Mayor Nickels, King County Councilmember Dow Constantine, and emcee Gregg Hersholt, a KIRO News host and resident of West Seattle. The new 36,000-sq. ft. complex will combine fourteen affordable family housing units, as well as provide office space for the West Seattle Helpline and other social service programs with the food bank. This is one of three capital campaign projects being developed by the Delridge Neighborhoods Development Association.

EAST

FIRST HILL IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION LOSES ITS LEADERSHIP BUT GAINS VALUABLE EXPERIENCE

After a long tenure as the president of the First Hill Improvement Association, Michael Gray is stepping down as president of this organization.

An active member since 1987, Mr. Gray has, with his peers at the FHIA, faced many challenges, such as maintaining an organization with a diverse membership that must reflect the concerns of residents, as well as major institutions. In spite of the challenges, the First Hill Improvement Association has a reputation of being an organization that finds solutions to difficult problems and is always willing to work with neighbors and government to assure resolutions to First Hill neighborhood concerns.

EAST DISTRICT NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL (EDNC) BIMONTHLY REPORT

The East District Neighborhood Council held its bimonthly meeting at the First Presbyterian Church at First Hill. The First Hill community hosted this meeting of the EDNC. Meetings are scheduled throughout the year at different locations in the East Sector to assure community participation and to highlight efforts and concerns of the neighborhoods hosting the meetings.

Happenings, continued on following page...

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New and Renovated Parks

South Lake Union Park – With funding from the Pro Parks Levy and private donations through the Seattle Parks Foundation from organizations such as Vulcan Inc., Parks will create a totally re-furbished park to feature a model boat pond, pathways, boardwalk, public art, boat launch and access to the water. Completion is expected in 2009.

www.seattle.gov/parks/proparks/projects/SouthLakeUnionPark.htm

Queen Anne Park at Uptown — Formerly a gas station, this site in Lower Queen Anne will be transformed into an elegant, urban park that provides brand new open space. Design is under way, and will continue through 2006. Pro Parks Levy funding is expected to augment a substantial fundraising effort by the community. Completion is expected in 2007.

www.seattle.gov/parks/proparks/projects/queenanneparkdev.htm

I-5 Colonnade – This project will develop an area under I-5 into open space that will include a dog off-leash area, stairs to make pedestrian connections between the Capitol Hill and Eastlake neighborhoods, a mountain bike course, public art and other amenities. Work began earlier this year. Completion is expected in December 2005. The project is funded by the Pro Parks Levy and the state of Washington.

www.seattle.gov/parks/proparks/projects/i-5openspace.htm

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Plymouth Pillars Park – This Pro Parks Levy funded project is under construction and on schedule for completion by the end of the year. It includes a dog offleash area, pedestrian walkway, stairs and some landscaping.

www.seattle.gov/parks/proparks/projects/borenpikepinepark.htm

Pier 62-63/Central Waterfront — Parks has closed the piers to concerts and other large special events because of the need to replace the underlying support structure. The options are to rebuild the piers at the existing site; rebuild them closer to the Aquarium; or remove the piers all together. Parks is working closely with other City departments to determine the best option.

www.seattle.gov

Aguarium/Pier 59 - Work began in June 2005, to remodel Pier 59 and the Aguarium. Seattle Parks and Recreation is restoring structural integrity to the majority of the facility by installing new driven and posted piles and new concrete aprons. As part of this project, the east end of the building has been carefully removed and the building's facade has also been removed and is stored at Pier 62/63, until 2006 when it will be restored and replaced. The Seattle Aquarium Society is working with the City and will announce plans in Fall, 2005 for remodeling the interior spaces for exhibits, events and visitor services.

www.seattle.gov

City Hall Park – This project implements improvements associated with transforming City Hall Park, located just south

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The EDNC now has two representatives of the senior and low-income communities from the East Sector and two representatives from non-profit human service organizations (Yesler Terrace Community Council, Capitol Park Housing Residents Group, Peace in the Streets by Kids from the Streets organization, and Broadway Human Services Roundtable).

Councilmember David Della and Captain Black from SPD, East Precinct were the invited guest speakers. The EDNC voted to endorse the First Hill community alternatives for linking the neighborhoods to Sound Transit-Light Rail proposed system and to support the efforts by the residents of SHA (Seattle Housing Authority) facilities to investigate and advocate for the agency redevelopment plans.

MAGNOLIA/QUEEN ANNE

CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE PAVES WAY FOR INTERBAY UPZONING

The City Council's Urban Development and Planning Committee recommended that the City's Comprehensive Plan allow for consideration of increased height and density in Interbay near 16th and W Dravus St. Under the current Comp Plan, such density and height is only allowed in Hub Urban Villages. The Council Committee agreed with the Department of Planning and Development (DPD) that Interbay does not meet the criteria for an urban village. Nevertheless, they felt the sloping topography of the area, the natural buffer from nearby neighborhoods, and the property owners' willingness to participate in a local improvement district (LID) for street improvements makes this situation unique. The committee recommended that the Comp Plan be amended to allow DPD to consider an overlay district in this area. The Interbay Neighborhood Association, which has championed greater density in their mixed industrial/commercial community, was encouraged.

HAPPEN rGS your neighborhood

QUEEN ANNE AVENUE STREETSCAPE PROJECT KICKS OFF

Fifty neighbors attended the first of three community meetings aimed at beautifying the Queen Anne Avenue streetscape from the top of the counterbalance to McGraw St. Funded through a Small and Simple Neighborhood Matching Fund award, the new group Picture Perfect Queen Anne, sent meeting participants onto the streets to assess the positive and negative attributes of each block. Some blocks were vibrant with sidewalk cafes and other small businesses, while others were friendlier to cars than pedestrians.

The most common complaints: aging unsafe sidewalks, sandwich board signs blocking the sidewalk, and lack of pedestrian lighting. The Mayor has proposed spending \$36,000 next year to replace sidewalks along this stretch. Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT) has begun stepped up enforcement of City ordinances banning sandwich board signs. In addition, the Department of Neighborhoods is working with SDOT to prioritize neighborhoods for pedestrian lighting and Queen Anne Avenue is a strong candidate.

NORTH

LAKE CITY MINI-PARK

Members of the Lake City Chamber, the Greater Lake City Community Council, and representatives from Parks, Seattle Public Utilities and Department of Neighborhoods had a productive meeting to refine strategies to address the issues with transient individuals at the park. The group decided on installing a decorated "English Style" wrought-iron fence on top of the ledge of the flowerbed.

The project has been divided into four phases:

- 1. Replacing plants with abrasive plants-to discourage sleeping in the flower beds (Parks)
- 2. Installing 8-inch, wrought-iron fence on the ledge of the flower bed (Parks)
- 3. Welding public art to the fence using Neighborhood Matching Fund Small and Simple funding (Chamber developing application)
- 4. Developing programming in the park for spring 2006 to encourage other uses of the park. (Chamber/GLCCC)

of the King County Courthouse, into an attractive gateway to downtown Seattle. The scope of work is currently being implemented through a community process, which considers potential impacts on nearby parks: Prefontaine Fountain Plaza, Fortson Square, Occidental Square and Pioneer Square Park. This project is part of the Mayor's initiative to improve downtown parks. (Significant changes in the park's uses and design may add programming costs and these will be considered in a separate process.)

www.seattle.gov

Belltown Cottage Park – Parks completed renovations at the Belltown P-Patch and Cottages in 2003. Renovations included restoration of the cottages to their original condition, landscaping and ADA accessibility. Project funding included the Pro Parks Levy Opportunity Fund.

www.seattle.gov/parks/proparks/projects/belltownCottages.htm

Cascade Playground – The Cascade Playground in the South Lake Union Neighborhood underwent a complete restoration with the installation of new play areas, natural landscaping and the demolition of a large retaining wall. Work was completed in June 2005. The project was funded by the Pro Parks Levy and private donors PEMCO, Vulcan and Harbor Properties.

www.seattle.gov/parks/proparks/projects/cascadeplayground.htm

Continued on next page.

Cal Anderson Park – Opened to the public in September 2005, this newly completed park in Capitol Hill features new pathways, a play area, an artist-team designed water feature, a new shelterhouse and comfort station, basketball courts and a re-surfaced athletic field for year-round use. The park renovation followed Seattle Public Utility's lidding of Lincoln Reservoir, which added four new acres to the park. Most of the project was funded by the Pro Parks Levy.

www.seattle.gov/parks/proparks/ projects/andersonReservoir Cover.htm

Community Centers

International District/Chinatown Community Center – Opened Sept. 29, 2004, in collaboration with the Seattle International District Preservation and Development Authority, the new community center is part of Phase II of the Village Square project, which also includes a library, housing, and retail space. It is available for community meetings and as a rental facility for special events. Community Center funding included the Pro Parks Levy, and the 2005 cycle of the Pro Parks Levy Opportunity Fund includes funding to add an additional room.

www.seattle.gov/parks/proparks/ projects/InternationalDistrict-Chinatown.htm

Programming at the International District Community Center (IDCC) includes ping pong, badminton, volleyball, martial arts, children's art, and cultural events. The facility serves the city's lowestincome neighborhood of about 3,000

Continued on next page.

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With assistance from the Department of Neighborhoods and the Seattle Department of Parks and Recreation, the community group has drafted a Neighborhood Matching Fund Small and Simple application, but have decided to wait to submit the application in January. The Parks Department is moving forward with installing the railing and SPU is working on modifying the door to the portable.

NORTHEAST

ISSUES IN COWEN PARK RE-EMERGING

About six years ago, "camping", public inebriation, drug use, and other illegal activities brought the community to its collective feet and brought the City's Neighborhood Action Team (NATS) to this northend neighborhood. The result was clean-up of the park, improvement of "sight lines" for the Police, removal of illegally parked vehicles, a decrease in "camping", removal of grafitti, and an increase in resources for services serving the homeless youth population. Overall, it was a successful partnership among neighbors, City Departments, service providers, and homeless youth and families in the neighborhood were once again the primary visitors to the park. During the past year or so, some of the problems that plagued the park in the past have been creeping back. Neighbor complaints are on the rise and several incidents in the park prompted Parks staff to convene a meeting with Seattle Public Utilities, Department of Transportation, Seattle Police Department, and the Department of Neighborhoods. Royal Alley-Barnes from Parks has taken the lead on pulling together an interdepartmental team to address the issues. A meeting is planned soon to discuss these issues with the neighborhood.

SOUTHEAST

SOUTHEAST DISTRICT COUNCIL TO HOST DISTRICT-WIDE EVENT ON SE SEATTLE ACTION AGENDA

The SE District Council will host a community update event on the SE Community Development Action Agenda on Saturday, November 19. The event will be another opportunity for Rainier Valley residents to hear about the Community/City initiative on economic development. It will also be an opportunity for the City to

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update the community on progress made on the Action Agenda since March of this year.

The SE District Council approved a restructuring process in July to operate as the community convenor for follow-up on the SE Action Agenda. The District Council has divided its priorities based on the five areas of the SE Action Agenda: Business and Job Creation, Physical Development, Public Safety, and Arts, Culture and Public Space.

In the summer and fall of 2004, Mayor Greg Nickels convened a group of community and business leaders to discuss potential strategies for the revitalization of Southeast Seattle. The SE Seattle Action Agenda is a direct result of those community-led meetings.

The District Council, made up of a collection of community organizations based in SE Seattle, is providing the forum for regular community check-ins on the progress of the Action Agenda. This fall the District Council will also host a community-wide event to update residents on the status of the Action Agenda.

INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNIZED GUEST ARTIST AT COLUMBIA CITY GALLERY

Internationally recognized Guatemalan painter, Abraham Navichoc, will be the featured guest artist at Columbia City Gallery on September 14 through November 13, 2005. Employing an unusual "bird's eye view," Navichoc specializes in wildly colorful and imaginative paintings of festivals and everyday life in Central America. He is one of a group of native painters from San Pedro, Guatemala included in the book Arte Naif Guatemala. He took First Prize in 1994 in Guatemala's most important art competition, the Paiz Biennial.

SOUTHWEST

WHALE TAIL PARK DEDICATED

Mayor Greg Nickels, Deputy Mayor Tim Ceis, and Seattle Department of Parks and Recreation Superintendent Ken Bounds were on hand to dedicate the newly renovated Whale Tail Park in the Alki neighborhood on September 17. King County Councilmember Dow Constantine served as Master of Ceremonies and Alki resident Linda Cuddy, who was the main force behind the project, gave an emotional speech and acknowledged the many scores of people who helped with the project.

Happenings, continued on following page...

residents, of which 65% are seniors. In the first half of 2005, the center had 4,000 adult drop-ins and serves an average of 30 kids daily.

Yesler Community Center – This new 20,000-square-foot facility includes activity rooms, a multi-purpose room and kitchen, a full size dividable gym, two family changing rooms, public restrooms, a reception area and lounge, and computer lab. The building, which opened in February 2005, was designed on one level with visibility from the entry desk to all key areas and entries for security. It is achieving energy efficiency and a healthier indoor environmental quality through the use of daylighting, intelligent lighting systems and natural ventilation.

www.seattle.gov/parks/centers/ current/Yesler_Community_ Center.htm

Trails/Pedestrian Connections

Capitol Hill to Lake Union Trail – Connections through St. Mark's Greenbelt and the I-5 Colonnade are providing new opportunities to link Capitol Hill to Lake Union for pedestrians and cyclists.

Thomas St. Overpass – The Pro Parks Levy includes funds for a pedestrian bridge over the railroad tracks, from Elliott Avenue West to Myrtle Edwards Park, at West Thomas Street. This connection was proposed in both the Belltown and Queen Anne neighborhood plans.

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is published six times a year by the

City of Seattle Department of Neighborhoods.

Mayor: Gregory J. Nickels

Director: Yvonne Sanchez

The Department of Neighborhoods reserves

the right to edit material submitted for

publication for length and clarity.

Please address submissions and questions

to: Editor, Neighborhood News

Peter McGraw,

Department of Neighborhoods

700 5th Ave., Ste 1700,

P. O. Box 94649,

Seattle WA 98124-4649

ph: (206) 615-0950

peter.mcgraw@seattle.gov

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HAPPEN rGS your neighborhood

SPEED RADAR SIGN INSTALLED NEAR FERRY TERMINAL

A permanently mounted "Speed Radar Sign" was recently installed on Fauntleroy Way SW near the Fauntleroy Ferry Terminal to slow down northbound automobile traffic exiting from the ferry. The radar sign performs a dual function by posting the 30-mph speed limit and displaying vehicle speeds to drivers. The decision on where best to install the radar sign was the result of a close collaboration between the residents of the Fauntleroy neighborhood and the Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT). SDOT and Washington State Ferries provided funding for the project.

ALKI COMMUNITY COUNCIL UPDATE

Southwest Precinct Commander Capt. Michael Fann, Log House Director Tom Monahan, and Alki Elementary School Principal Patricia McLean headlined the September 15 meeting of the Alki Community Council in a meet and greet, question and answer session. As relative newcomers to Alki, each was given the opportunity to share thoughts and insights and to respond to questions from members of the community. Also discussed at the meeting were concerns about speeding traffic along SW Lander St, between Lander and Steven St, as well as concerns about proposed zoning changes that would permit larger grocery stores in low-density areas.

ADMIRAL PLANNING COALITION TRANSITION NEAR

The Admiral Planning Coalition will soon be a thing of the past following its October 4 meeting. At the meeting, the APC will vote to adopt new bylaws and to change its name to the Admiral Neighborhood Association (ANA). ANA will become the new community council for Admiral and the activities of the APC will be integrated into ANA. The Admiral Community Council, which once served as the community council but is now inactive, has given ANA its blessings.

TED OF

Evanston Ave. North.

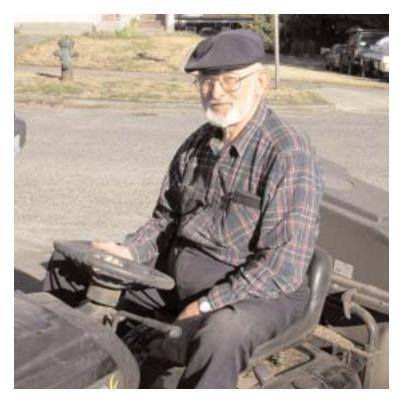
If Ted Rihanek ever needs an introduction, plenty of folks can help him out. "I know you..." a woman told him at the local grocery store, "you're Evanston Avenue North!"

Ted and his wife Florence have lived at N 40th & and Evanston N for 33 years. When Ted retired in 1995 after 38 years of driving trucks for Vita Milk, he began spending more time around the neighborhood. The woman in the grocery store had seen Ted performing one of his self-imposed duties of mowing the planting strips on surrounding blocks. Ted's service to the neighborhood came in response to numerous neighbors who helped the Rihaneks out by mowing a steep bank in their lawn.

Next door neighbor Chel Loomis said with a smile: "I love being his neighbor for that reason (cutting the grass)" she said. "My husband is allergic to grass."

Ted zips around expertly on his mower and a battery-operated "Rascal" chair he purchased when walking became difficult for him. "People often ask me if I am keeping to the speed limit," Ted jokes (another activity he enjoys). He takes the chair on trips to the store and puts the groceries in a basket he built on the front.

Raised on a Nebraska farm, Ted is an inveterate handyman and tinkerer who has correctly diagnosed car problems for his neighbors just by listening to their engines. He also gets a kick watching the construction of new homes in the neighborhood and listening to the contractors' stories (Ted once pointed out a step that had been laid out too short). If you see Ted, say hello - he'll also answer to "Evanston Ave N!"





Seattle Goes Green continued from page 1.

of both veteran community activists and many people new to community projects.

Following the "in-class" session, eager tree planters adjourned to a nearby project site for some hands-on tree planting experience. For both, the tree planting experience is a way to meet neighbors and help create a lasting neighborhood improvement. The Department of Neighborhoods and SDOT work closely together on the Tree Fund program to ensure successful neighborhood planting projects. Thanks to the many volunteers who invested their time and energy in these projects and helped create greener, more livable neighborhoods.

Tree Fund applications are accepted each year in August for planting projects in October. For more information on the Tree Fund, please call us at **206-684-0464**, or visit us on the web at **www.seattle.gov/neighborhoods**



Neighborhood Matching Fund Fall Celebration and Workshop

The Neighborhood Matching Fund will be hosting a celebration of community projects on Thursday, December 1st from 6-9 PM at Sealth High School (2600 SW Thistle St.). Organizers will be honored. Projects will be show-cased. Hot tips on application development will be shared. This is a rare opportunity for those considering community building projects to exchange creative ideas with other citizens who have experience. Please join us for this dynamic gathering.

• 6-7 PM

Mayor Greg Nickels will present *Small and Simple* awards to community groups who have developed project ideas and successfully applied for funding.

Small Sparks and Outreach organizers will showcase their completed projects and tell stories of their community building efforts.

• 7-7:30 PM

Enjoy light refreshments and meet organizers.

• 7:30-8:45 PM

Neighborhood Matching Fund staff will facilitate a technical workshop on *Small and Simple*, and *Large Project* application development.

For more information, please contact the Department of Neighborhoods at (206) 684-0464 or visit the web at www.seattle.gov/neighborhoods/nmf.



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